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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 KAMPALA 005061

LONDON FOR MCKINLEY, PARIS FOR PERLOW

YAOUNDE FOR DATT

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

TAGS: PREL, MOPS, MARR, RW, FR, UG

SUBJECT: DEMARCHE TO THE RPF

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE REVIEW AUTHORITY: HARRY R MELONE DATE/CASE ID: 24 MAR 2006 200103014

UNCLASSIFIED

REF: STATE 167690

- 1. CONFIDENTIAL ENTIRE TEXT.
- 2. THIS IS AN ACTION REQUEST; SEE PARA 11.
- 3. SUMMARY. THE CHARGE MET WITH RPF REPRESENTATIVES SETH SENDASHONGA AND DENIS POOLISI ON JUNE 23 TO DELIVER THE POINTS IN REFTEL URGING THE RPF TO SUPPORT UNAMIR AND THE DELIVERY OF EQUIPMENT TO UNAMIR, AND TO STOP HARASSING U.S. CITIZENS AND OTHER EXPATRIATES. THE RPF REPRESENTATIVES EXPRESSED STRONG OPPOSITION TO THE FRENCH INTERVENTION. THEY REAFFIRMED THE RPF'S SUPPORT FOR AN EXPANDED UNAMIR, BUT WITHOUT TROOPS FROM FRANCE OR ITS ALLIES IN THE INTERVENTION FORCE. END SUMMARY.
- 4. AFTER RECEIVING REFTEL, WE REQUESTED AN APPOINTMENT WITH RPF REPRESENTATIVES ON JUNE 23. THE CHARGE MET WITH DENIS POOLISI, SECOND VICE CHAIRMAN CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 KAMPAL 05061 01 OF 02 241532Z OF THE RPF, AND SETH SENDASHONGA, MINISTER-DESIGNATE OF YOUTH AND COOPERATIVE AFFAIRS AND MEMBER OF THE POLITICAL BUREAU, LATE IN THE AFTERNOON. THE TWO WERE IN KAMPALA ON THEIR WAY BACK TO RWANDA FROM A TRIP TO WEST AFRICA. DATT AND POLOFF SAT IN ON THE MEETING.

5. THE CHARGE RAISED THE POINTS IN REFTEL, URGING THE RPF TO COOPERATE FULLY WITH UNAMIR, TO PERMIT THE FLOW OF SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT THROUGH RPF TERRITORY TO UNAMIR, AND TO STOP HARASSING AMERICAN CITIZENS AND OTHER EXPATRIATES. THE RPF REPRESENTATIVES ARGUED VEHEMENTLY AGAINST THE FRENCH INTERVENTION FORCE; UNAMIR SHOULD HAVE BEEN EXPANDED MUCH MORE OUICKLY, THEY INSISTED, PRECLUDING THE FRENCH UNILATERAL ACTION. THE CHARGE NOTED THAT THE RPF HAD SENT A LETTER CALLING FOR THE WITHDRAWAL OF UNAMIR IF THE FRENCH FORCE ENTERED RWANDA. SETH SENDASHONGA REPLIED THAT THE LETTER WAS WRITTEN BEFORE THE U.N. SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION; HE DID NOT KNOW THE STATUS OF THE LETTER NOW THAT THE RESOLUTION HAS PASSED. THE CHARGE STATED THAT THE EXPANSION OF UNAMIR IS ONGOING, THAT EQUIPMENT IS BEING DELIVERED TO PREPARE FOR THE ARRIVAL OF ADDITIONAL TROOPS, AND

THAT IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THE RPF PERMIT UNAMIR TO CONTINUE ITS WORK. SENDASHONGA STATED THAT THE RPF WOULD ALLOW THE EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES FOR UNAMIR TO PASS THROUGH THE RPF ZONE.

6. DENIS POOLISI SAID THAT THE RPF HAS REPORTS THAT UNAMIR IS DOING "ADVANCE WORK" FOR THE FRENCH CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 04 KAMPAL 05061 01 OF 02 241532Z FORCES. HE LISTED THE RPF'S OBJECTIONS TO FRENCH FORCES BASED ON FRENCH ACTIONS IN RWANDA IN THE PAST. DATT NOTED THAT THE RPF COULD MONITOR ANY NON-NEUTRAL ACTIONS BY THE FRENCH AND REPORT TO UNAMIR AND THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY. THE RPF REPRESENTATIVES SAID THEY DID NOT KNOW THE SCOPE OF THE U.N. RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE FRENCH OR THEIR RULES OF ENGAGEMENT. THE CHARGE GAVE THEM COPIES OF THE U.N. RESOLUTION. DATT SAID THEY -- AND WE -- COULD INQUIRE ABOUT THE FRENCH RULES OF ENGAGEMENT.

- 7. TO THE CHARGE'S SPECIFIC QUESTION ON WHETHER THE RPF WOULD CONTINUE TO SUPPORT UNAMIR, SENDASHONGA STATED THAT THE RPF WILL COOPERATE WITH UNAMIR. POOLISI ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT THE RPF RESERVES THE RIGHT TO OBJECT TO CERTAIN NATIONALITIES PARTICIPATING IN AN EXPANDED UNAMIR, NOTABLY THE FRENCH AND ANY OF THEIR "ALLIES" IN THE INTERVENTION FORCE.
- 8. ON THE QUESTION OF HARASSMENT OF U.S. CITIZENS AND OTHER EXPATRIATES BY THE RPF, SENDASHONGA SAID HE

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WOULD NEED DETAILS OF THE SPECIFIC INCIDENT TO

"IN PRINCIPLE, IT IS WRONG FOR THE RPF TO TREAT ANYONE RUDELY AT THE BORDER." HE SAID. THE RPF HAS ESTABLISHED PROCEDURES FOR CLEARANCE INTO ITS ZONE, HE SAID: THE NGO'S AND OTHERS APPLY FOR CLEARANCE FROM THE RPF OFFICE IN BRUSSELS TO USE THE CROSSING POINT AT GATUNA NEAR KABALE, UGANDA. LIAISON OFFICER IS POSTED AT GATUNA TO CLEAR EXPATRIATES FOR WORK OR TRAVEL IN RWANDA. POLOFF NOTED THAT THE HARASSMENT OF THE AMERICANS OCCURRED AT KAGITUMBA, THE ROUTE THAT UNAMIR PLANS TO USE FOR THE TRANSPORT OF THE APC'S FROM ENTEBBE. SENDASHONGA SAID THAT THE RPF WOULD HAVE TO WORK OUT LOGISTICS WITH UNAMIR FOR THAT CROSSING POINT, BUT AMERICANS --OR OTHERS -- WHO DO NOT HAVE ALL THE INFORMATION (IE., THAT THEY ARE TO USE GATUNA) SHOULD NOT BE TREATED "RUDELY." SENDASHONGA SAID THERE WILL BE NO RPF HARASSMENT OR MISTREATMENT OF AMERICANS BECAUSE OF THEIR NATIONALITY OR THE POLITICAL SUPPORT BY THE U.S. GOVERNMENT FOR THE FRENCH INTERVENTION IN CONFIDENTIAL

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- 9. COMMENT. THE RPF REPRESENTATIVES HAD BEEN TRAVELING AND WERE OUT OF THE LOOP ON THE MOST CURRENT RPF POLICY VIS A VIS THE FRENCH INTERVENTION AND UNAMIR. WE BELIEVE THEY WILL CARRY OUR MESSAGE ACCURATELY TO THE RPF LEADERSHIP IN RWANDA. END COMMENT.
- 10. ACTION REQUEST FOR PARIS: IS IT POSSIBLE TO GET A COPY OF THE FRENCH RULES OF ENGAGEMENT FOR THEIR INTERVENTION IN RWANDA? IF SO, COULD IT BE PASSED TO THE RPF? PLEASE ADVISE.
- 11. MINIMIZE CONSIDERED. SHIPPY

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